

Dear Friends,

With Congress back in session, I wanted to take a moment to update you on how I spent the month-long district work period and to let you know what Congress will be addressing for the rest of this year.

### **Healthcare**

During August, I had the opportunity to meet with a wide range of groups and individuals to discuss the most important issues affecting our community. Top among those was healthcare. Our healthcare system affects every single one of us, and I was one of a group of moderate Democrats who pushed House leadership to delay a vote on healthcare until after the August district work period. I believe that we should take the time to hear from our constituents on this critical issue, which was my top priority in recent weeks.

At numerous townhall events and “Congress on Your Corner” meetings, I heard from many of our neighbors in greater Cincinnati about their questions and priorities when it comes to healthcare reform. In addition to these public events, I met with doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, insurance companies, small business owners—more than 50 meetings total—so that I can better represent greater Cincinnati’s priorities as Congress continues its work on healthcare reform. Concerned citizens expressed a variety of opinions about healthcare, and we were able to have respectful and constructive conversations. As I return to Washington, I value the tremendous insight shared and gained at these meetings.

I have pledged to my constituents that I will not support legislation that provides public funding for abortions. I have led the effort to reduce burdens on small businesses and middle class families, and I am committed to reform that will not add to our budget deficit. It is clear to me, however, that our healthcare system is badly broken, and that healthcare reform is a priority that cannot wait. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find solutions that will provide quality, affordable care for every American.

### **Fighting for Consumer Protection**

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions Michael Barr joined me in Cincinnati to discuss consumer protection and regulatory reform with constituents and local stakeholders. Risky transactions, dangerous investments, and unregulated practices in our financial services sector brought our economy to the brink of collapse and caused the worst recession in generations. Assistant Secretary Barr and I listened to ideas about fixing our outdated regulatory system and discussed the steps we need to take to prevent this crisis from occurring again.

An important part of financial stability is to enact new protections for consumers. Assistant Secretary Barr took the time to discuss some of the Administration’s steps to put new safeguards in place, which will promote transparency, protect consumers, and curtail the risky business practices that have contributed to the financial crisis. As a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I will continue to work with my colleagues and the administration to enact meaningful regulatory reform that puts consumers first and will help to protect our future economic prosperity.

### **Protecting Local Jobs**

Since the beginning of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, I have pushed to keep funding in place for the Joint Strike Fighter Competitive Engine Program. This program not only saves taxpayer money and strengthens our national security, but it is responsible for nearly 1,000 local jobs at General Electric Aviation in Evendale. Congress will soon address the Competitive Engine Program as part of the 2010 appropriations process, and I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure this program remains intact.

### **Protecting our families from H1N1**

As our children head back to school, it's important for parents to have the information they need to keep their families safe and healthy. The Department of Health and Human services has announced that a vaccine for H1N1 should be available in the fall, but there are steps you and your family can take to reduce the risk of infection. For suggestions about how to stay healthy as well as more information about HHS efforts to stop the spread of H1N1 and other Flu Viruses, please visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

As Congress moves forward on healthcare reform, regulatory reform, and a wide range of other issues, I would like to hear about your priorities and concerns for our nation and our community. Please don't hesitate to contact my offices in Cincinnati and Washington, DC, where my staff are happy to hear from you and offer help with a wide range of services.

Thank you for the continued honor of serving Ohio's First Congressional District.  
Sincerely,

Steve Driehaus Member of Congress